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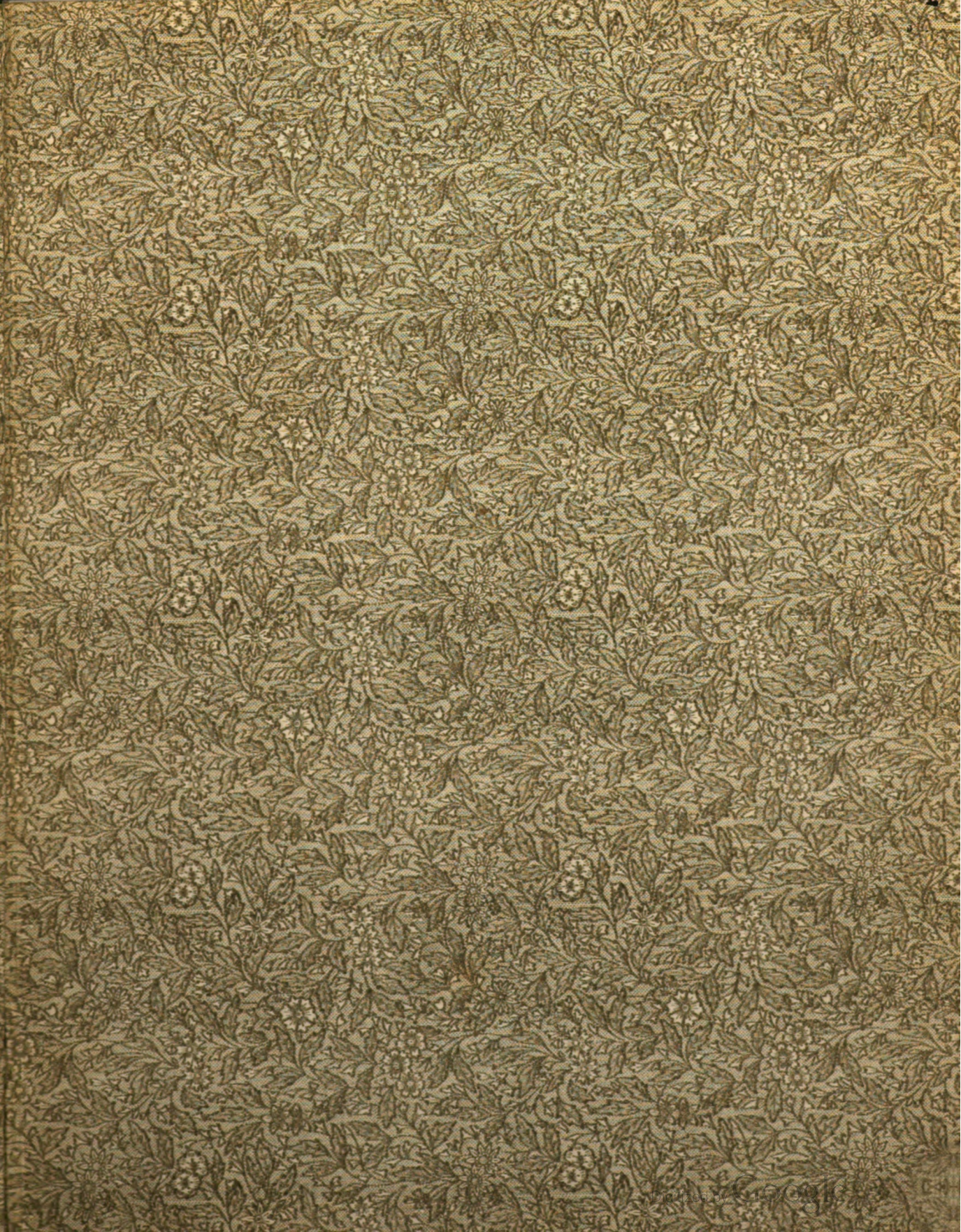
A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE 3rd.
QUEEN'S OWN
GURKHA RIFLES



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*A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE 3rd
(QUEEN'S OWN)
GURKHA RIFLES.*

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Colonel of the Regiment
Major-General H. D. HUTCHINSON, C.S.I.
(who raised the 2nd Battalion, and Commanded it from 1891 to 1896).

THE 3rd (QUEEN'S OWN) GURKHA RIFLES.
THE OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT.

THE 3rd (QUEEN'S OWN) GURKHA RIFLES

Delhi - Ahmed Khel - Afghanistan, 1878-80.

Burma, 1885-87.

Chitral - Punjab Frontier - Tirah.

COLONEL - Major-General H. D. HUTCHINSON, C.S.I.

1st Battalion : ALMORA.

2nd Battalion : LANSDOWNE.

Commandant :

Colonel Hugh Rose

Double Company Commanders :

Major N. G. Woodyatt (2nd in comd.)
Major F. A. Kingston
Major A. C. Hickley
Major W. R. Brakspear
Major C. S. Eastmead

Double Company Officers :

Captain J. G. Edwardes
Captain A. B. Tillard, D.S.O.
Captain M. E. Dopping-Hepenstal
Captain G. K. Channer
Captain D. J. Shuttleworth (Adjutant)
Captain J. C. Loch
Lieut. R. C. Jackson (Qr.-Master)
Lieut. C. H. A. Tuck
Lieut. H. H. Grigg
Lieut. A. M. Hutchins

Attached Officers :

Lieut. A. G. Stone
2nd Lieut. H. Bennett

Medical Officers :

Lieut.-Col. C. N. Bensley, J.M.S.

Commandant :

Colonel G. S. Ommanney

Double Company Commanders :

Major W. H. Savage (2nd in comd.)
Major A. P. Bateman-Champain,
M.V.O.
Bt. Lt.-Col. W. G. L. Beynon, D.S.O.
Captain W. M. R. Brown
Captain W. C. French

Double Company Officers :

Captain F. Manners-Smith
Captain W. L. Dundas
Lieut. D. G. Ridgeway (Adjutant)
Lieut. G. M. Glynton (Qr.-Master)
Lieut. G. H. Newcombe
Lieut. C. A. B. Hamilton
Lieut. R. D. Alexander
Lieut. J. T. Lodwick
Lieut. E. G. T. Tuite-Dalton

Attached Officers :

Lieut. A. H. Bald

Medical Officers :

Captain E. H. B. Stanley, J.M.S.
Lieut. T. S. O'Neill

INTRODUCTION.



THE Gurkha soldier is enlisted in Nepal, an independent State situated in the Southern ranges of the Himalayas. The people of Nepal are called Gurkhas. This appellation is derived from the town and district of that name (in about the centre of Nepal), where they first established themselves as an independent power. Nepal is about 500 miles long by about 100 miles broad. It is a country of mountains and valleys, and "like Caledonia, stern and wild." The population is about 4,000,000. The people are of Mongolian origin and appearance. They are simple, loyal, brave, and hardy. In the turbulent times of nearly 100 years ago, they frequently encroached on our Frontier, and pillaged within our borders. In consequence, war ensued, and in 1814-15, some hard knocks were exchanged with these brave mountaineers.

Eventually, peace was concluded, and from that time (1815) to the present, they have been our staunch friends and allies. They offered to help us in 1848 in our struggle with the Sikhs: and in the Mutiny, in 1857, they sent down 10,000 men under the famous Jung Bahadur to fight for us against the Mutineers. Buddhism is nominally the religion of Nepal, but practically it has been supplanted by Hinduism. The Gurkha has, however, few caste prejudices, and none which interfere with his efficiency as a soldier. The national weapon is the Kukri, a short, curved, broad-bladed, heavy knife. It is universally carried. No Gurkha ever stirs abroad without it. It has often been used with terrible effect in a *mêlée*. With the cordial assent and approval of the Nepal Durbar, Gurkhas enlist freely into the British Service. There are 18 Gurkha battalions now in the Indian Army, each battalion consisting of 914 men of all ranks, plus

THE GURKHA SOLDIER



The Raw Material.



The Finished Article.

15 British Officers. There is no finer fighting material in the Service than the Gurkha : and there is no man who is prouder of being a soldier of the King. In an article on the Gurkha Soldier, by Major Nigel Woodyatt, 3rd (Queen's Own) Gurkha Rifles, which appeared in a recent number of the Journal of the Royal United Service Institution, the following passage occurs :—

“It is astonishing to note how quickly after joining Headquarters the recruits learn to reverence the King-Emperor, whom they look upon with much veneration. Our barrack-rooms are full of coloured prints of the late Queen, and are now filling up with others of the present King and Queen. The most acceptable gift you can make to a non-commissioned officers' room is a picture of our reigning Monarch.”



A Group of Gurkha Officers in Field Service Dress.



Pipers



"A Favourite Orderly."

Gurkhas are very clannish and conservative. However, they quickly become great friends with British soldiers whenever, and wherever, they meet. On the other hand, they do not readily fraternise with Indian troops, and are careful to let it be known that they do not consider themselves natives of India. In the same article from which a quotation has already been given, Major Woodyatt says :—

“ A favourite orderly of mine once asked me during a halt in the jungle if my father had served in the Indian Army. On my telling him I had never had a relative out here, he remarked, quite solemnly, ‘ That’s like me ; I never had a relative in this Country either ! ’ ”



RECORDS OF THE 1st BATTALION.



General Sir E. STEDMAN, K.C.B., K.C.S.E.
Military Secretary, India Office.
Commandant 1st Battalion—June, 1886—April, 1887).



Colonel (now Lieut-General) H. LYSTER, C.B., V.C.,
Who commanded the 1st Battalion from December, 1879, to December, 1885.




Colonel E. B. BISHOP
Commandant 1st Battalion, April, 1887, to April, 1894.



Col. C. PULLEY, C.B.
Commandant 1st Battalion, April, 1894, to April, 1901.



Colonel HUGH ROSE.
Commandant 1st Battalion (since April, 1901).

HE 1st Battalion of the 3rd (Queen's Own) Gurkha Rifles was raised in the year 1815. It was stationed in the first instance at Hawalbagh in the Province of Kumaon. For upwards of 40 years it was peacefully employed in the ordinary duties of a garrison, and it was not until the outbreak of the Mutiny in 1857 that it had an opportunity of proving its efficiency in the field. In the meantime, in the year 1846, it had been removed to Almora, the capital of Kumaon, and this station is the Headquarters of the Battalion at the present day. In October, 1856, in anticipation of the trouble that was brewing, the Battalion was ordered to Rawal Pindi, and in June of the following year it was despatched to Delhi to join the Force then engaged in besieging that stronghold. From the time of its arrival it was engaged almost daily with the mutineers, and on the 14th

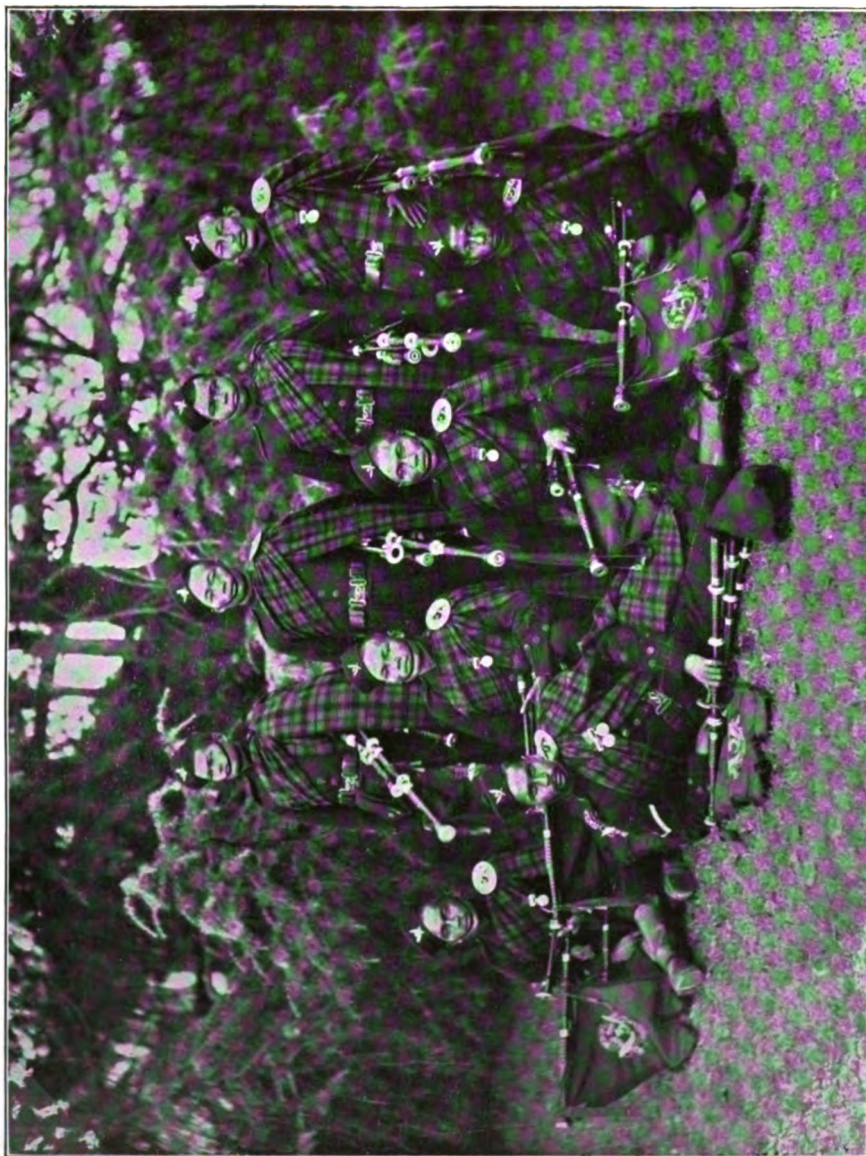
September formed part of the 3rd Brigade which, under General Campbell, stormed the Kashmir Gate ; but there was constant and desperate fighting for another week before the place was fully in our hands. After the fall of Delhi the Battalion was employed under different commanders in dispersing the rebels and restoring order in various directions. In July, 1858, it returned to Almora.

The next service of the 3rd Gurkhas was in 1864 in Bhutan. In this expedition they were employed for nearly two years, and distinguished themselves in many engagements.

On the 1st January, 1877, the Battalion was present at Delhi during the Imperial Assemblage, when Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, was proclaimed Empress of India.



Bhutan, 1864.



Pipers of the 1st Battalion.

In 1878, occurred the war with Afghanistan. The Battalion left Almora on the 12th October, and joining the Southern Afghanistan Field Force, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Donald Stewart, K.C.B., was posted to the 2nd Infantry Brigade, under Brigadier-General R. J. Hughes. During the first phase of the war, the work of the Battalion was chiefly confined to furnishing escorts, and so forth, between Quetta, Candahar, and Kelat-i-Ghilzai, but in September, 1879, the massacre of our envoy in Cabul, Sir Louis Cavagnari and his suite and escort, was the signal for fresh operations.

Cabul and Candahar were again occupied by the British Forces, but so far as the Candahar Force was concerned, the Winter of 1879-80 passed quietly, and all the fighting took place on the Cabul side. However, on the 31st March, 1880, General Sir Donald

Stewart with a large force, which included the 3rd Gurkhas, left Candahar for Cabul. On the 19th April, the enemy were encountered at Ahmed Khel, and a desperate fight ensued. The Afghans, 15,000 strong, held a position on an undulating ridge. The 3rd Gurkhas formed part of General Hughes' Brigade which was ordered to advance and attack, under cover of Artillery fire. The enemy, however, did not await this attack, but, charging down, so enveloped the force that both flanks were turned, and the line penetrated. At the same time their Cavalry bore down upon the left of the line. Colonel Lyster, V.C., promptly threw the Regiment into rallying squares, and in this formation it firmly withstood the onslaught, and delivered such a terrific fire upon the foe as mowed down the tribesmen in hundreds, and eventually broke up and dispersed the attack. Sir Donald Stewart afterwards in his Despatch referred to "the resolute firmness" with

which the 3rd Gurkhas and 2nd Sikhs held the key of the position on this hard-fought field. On the 22nd April the Battalion was again engaged in the action of Urzoo, and later on marched into Cabul. Eventually it returned to India in September, via the Khyber Pass; and at Lahore, in November of the same year, it formed part of the Viceroy's escort at the Lahore Durbar. A medal with clasp, "Ahmed Khel," was awarded for Afghanistan, and the Battalion was permitted to bear upon its appointments the words "Ahmed Khel" and "Afghanistan, 1878-80."

In 1886-87, the Battalion served in Burmah, and for its services in that Country received a medal and clasp, with permission to wear "Burmah, 1886-87" on its appointments.

In 1892, a Detachment of the Regiment, under



Burmah—1886-87.

Major Pulley, served with a small expedition in the Lushai Hills.

In 1897, the Battalion, under Lieut.-Colonel C. Pulley, formed part of the Tirah Expeditionary Force under General Sir William Lockhart. Throughout this campaign the operations were of a most arduous nature, and the fighting was often severe. The Battalion was engaged in the Kuram-Kohat affairs, in the operations on the Samana, the action of Dargai, the attacks on the Sampagha and Arhang Passes, the reconnoissance of the Saran Sar, the operations at Dwatoi and in the Bara Valley. Many of the officers and men were specially mentioned and rewarded for their good work during this expedition.

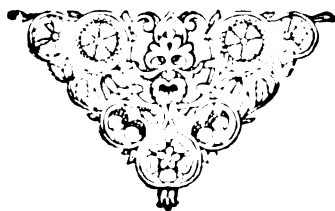
The next occasion on which this Battalion proceeded on service was in December, 1901, when it



Dargai, 1897.

was ordered to the North-West Frontier to take part in the blockading operations against the Mahsud Waziris. There was little fighting during this Expedition, but in the way of intense cold and wet, constant marching, and harassing picquet duties, etc., there were a good many hardships to endure.

In November, 1902, the Battalion took part in the celebrations connected with the Coronation Durbar at Delhi; and finally, in 1906, it was in camp in Agra on the occasion of the visit of the Amír of Afghanistan.



RECORDS OF THE 2nd BATTALION.



Colonel G. S. OMMANNEY.
Commandant 2nd Battalion (since May, 1903).



Subadar-Major SINGBIR-GHALÉ BAHADUR
2nd Battalion 3rd (Queen's Own) Gurkha Rifles.



Officers of the 2nd Battalion at the time it was raised, January, 1891.

Major Molesworth.

Lieut. Brakspear.

Lieut. Woodyatt.


Lieut. Kingston.

Major Hutchinson.

Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Smyth.

Lieut. Bateman-Champain.

Major Wheatley. Lieut. Eastmead.

HE 2nd Battalion was raised in January, 1891, by Major H. D. Hutchinson (now Major-General H. D. Hutchinson, C.S.I., Director of Staff Duties at Army Headquarters, and Colonel of the Regiment). The Battalion was in the first instance stationed at Lansdowne in the Province of Garhwal. By the end of the year it was at full strength, and complete and efficient in all respects, and attended the camp of exercise at Bareilly, where it was inspected and complimented by His Excellency Sir Frederick Roberts, then Commander-in-Chief in India. As it was desired that the two Battalions should be quartered together, the 2nd Battalion, on the conclusion of the manœuvres at Bareilly, marched to Sitoli, near Almora, and there commenced to level sites and build barracks. But before much progress had been made a serious outbreak of cholera, during which 38 men died, put a stop to all work, and raised the question as

to the suitability of Sitoli as a permanent location for the Battalion. It was eventually decided to go back to Lansdowne, which place was reached on New Year's Day, 1893, and a fresh beginning made with the barracks. By the end of the year all building was completed, and this Cantonment has been the Headquarters of the Battalion ever since.

In March, 1895, the Battalion joined the Chitral Relief Force, under General Sir Robert Low, and on the conclusion of the operations in August of the same year, was selected to form a part of the force detailed to occupy the Chitral Valley, Colonel Hutchinson being at the same time appointed to command all the troops in Chitral. A very interesting year was spent in this Country. The inhabitants proved friendly, and the time was spent in building barracks, erecting a Fort, making roads, bridging the River, and so forth. In June, 1896, the Battalion returned to Lansdowne.



A Party of Signallers.



Machine Guns in position.


In January, 1899, the Battalion was detailed to garrison Lundi Kotal in the Khyber Pass, and it remained there until the end of the year, when it returned to Lansdowne.

Finally, in 1906, the Battalion went to Agra to participate in the manoeuvres, etc., organised in honour of the visit of the Amír of Afghanistan.





Gurkha Officers of the 2nd Battalion.

N athletic sports, and rifle competitions, etc., the 3rd (Queen's Own) Gurkhas have always taken a keen interest, and hold a good record. The 1st Battalion was second in all India in Lord Kitchener's special efficiency test in 1906. The 2nd Battalion won the Gurkha Brigade Football Challenge Cup for three years in succession, 1902-03-04; and in 1906, the 2nd Battalion carried off the Meerut Championship Cup at the Bengal Presidency Rifle Association Meeting, while the 1st Battalion tied for second place.



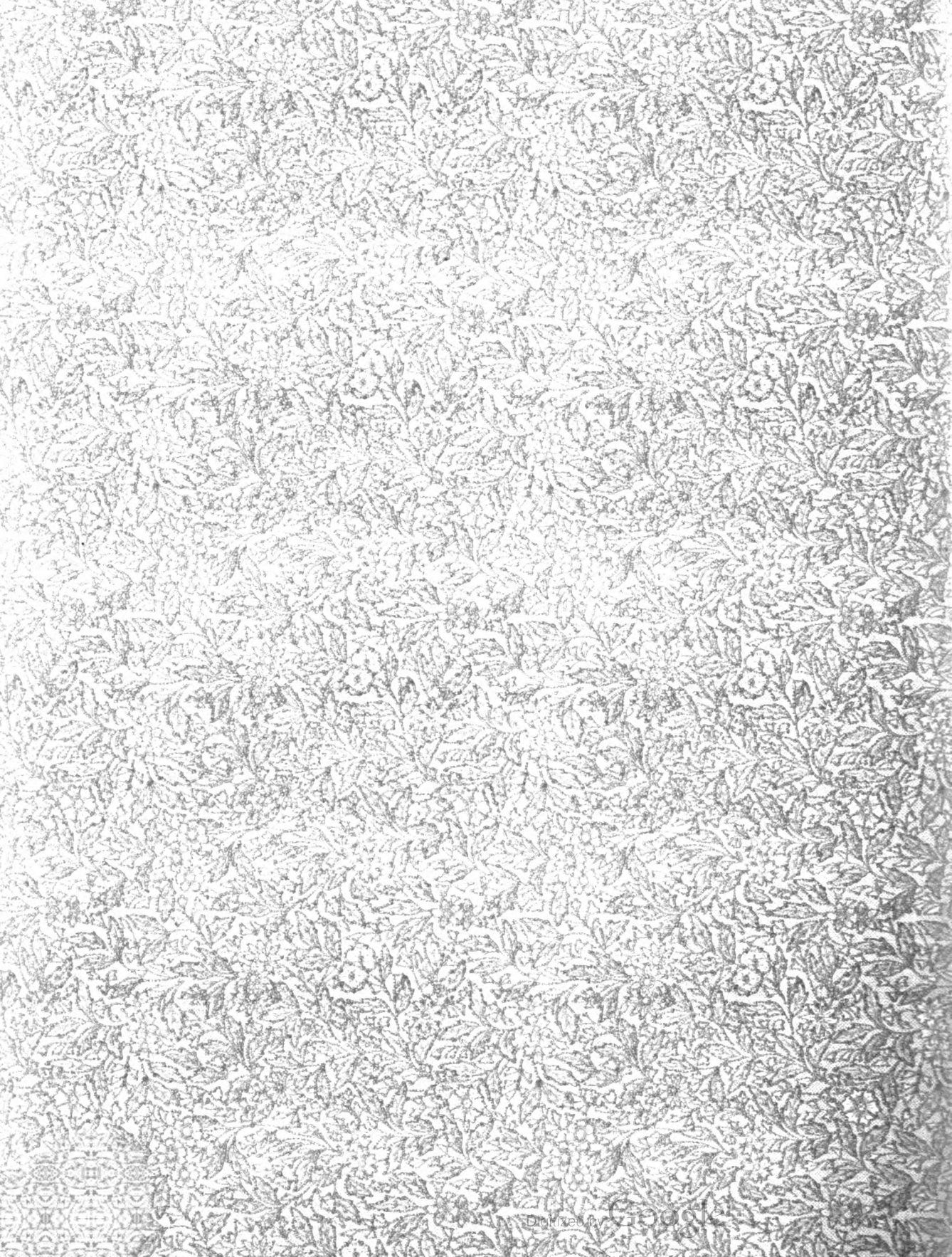


ON the 22nd February, 1907, the London Gazette contained the announcement that the King was graciously pleased to approve that the Regiment should in future be styled the 3rd (Queen's Own) Gurkha Rifles, with permission to bear upon its appointments the Royal and Imperial Cypher, ensigned by the Imperial Crown.

It is unnecessary to say with what pride and pleasure officers and men have received the news of this great honour.

H. D. H.

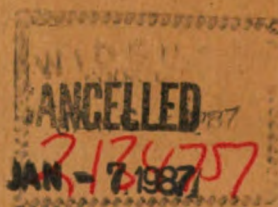




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